Problems in Translating Synecdoche
in the Holy Qur'aan

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Abstract

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This study aims to identify the problems that translators face when dealing with synecdoche in the Holy Qur'an through discussing and analyzing some of the synecdochic verses' renditions in English. So, the priority of this study is to find the problems and find solutions to them. To accomplish this purpose, the researcher identified 30 synecdochic verses with their English renditions in four well known translations to the Holy Qur'an: Yousef Ali, Abdul Majid Daryabadi, Thomas Irving, and Muhammad Pickthall. Then, these renditions were compared with the interpretation of these verses in the exegeses of the Holy Qur'an such as Ibn Kathiir interpretation, bahir almuhiit by Ibn Hayyaan, and majaz alquraan by Ashshaafi‘y in order to verify if these renditions convey the intended meaning of the verses or not. Accordingly, the researcher has found that most of studied translations do not convey the intended meaning of these verses due to the fact that translators didn't realize the intended meaning or had different points of view towards the intended meaning. However, they render the synecdoches literally, but the literal rendition failed many times to convey the meaning of these verses. This study holds that it is impossible to render synecdoche literally unless there is a correspondent use of language and a correspondent connotations in both languages. In addition, it reveals that when translating the Holy texts, translators should depend on the semantic approach. Consequently, this study recommends that: firstly, translators should have a necessary knowledge to recognize synecdoche and its types
and how it can function in language. Secondly, translators, in their attempts to render the Holy Qur'an into English, should refer to the exegeses of the Holy Qur'an to know the intended meaning of the verse and then to convey it into English. Thirdly, translators should get acquainted with the studies which investigate the problems involved in translating the Holy Qur'an especially if we know that such studies refer to different exegeses and many times they suggest better alternatives of the translation of the holy verses.